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Gudrun E. Hockett
Gudrun E. Hockett, Patent Agent

Applicant: Marcus Menden
Serial No: 09/869,184
U.S. Filed: 6/20/2001
For: Illumination Method, Illumination System and the Components Thereof,
Especially for Illuminating Hollow Bodies such as Signs, Inscriptions,
Letters,
Examiner: Anabel Ton
Art Unit: 2875

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56, Applicant wishes to call the attention of the Examiner to the reference(s) cited on the attached form PTO-1449.

Reference 2 discloses an LED panel 1 comprised of electrically conducting structures 2, 4 that are isolated relative to one another by an isolation layer 3 and enable to connect in parallel several LED chips, that are connected to one another in groups in a serial connection, with electrical current. An optically transparent protective layer 14 can be provided which ensures the desired spatial distribution of the light emitted by the LED chips and protects the LED chips from the environment. The configuration of electrically conducting structures 2, 4, the electrically isolation 3, the LED chips 8, and the shape-stable optically transparent protective layer 14 is designed such that the LED illumination panel can be designed theoretically as large as desired with a very dense arrangement of LED chips. The panel can be divided into any suitably sized partial segment that is functional as such. The smallest functional unit 13 is shown in Fig. 2

Reference 3 discloses an illumination device comprised of a base surface 25 secured in a

- 1 -

11/21/03: IDS for Ser. No. 09/869,184 filed 6/20/2001 - Inventor(s): M. Menden

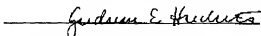
frame 11 provided with sidewalls 12. In the interior that is defined by the baseplate 25 and the sidewalls 12, diffusor member 13 is arranged that is comprised of a potting compound of light-transmissive material. The free top surface of the diffusor member 13 forms the surface 14 that is to be illuminated. In the illustrated embodiment, one of the sidewalls 12 secures a printed circuit board 24 provided with several LEDs 16. Accordingly, the LEDs 16, when looking onto the illumination surface 14, are completely covered by the backside of the printed circuit board 24 so that there is no disruptive effect of light radiation with regard to the illuminated surface 14. Reference numeral 16a shows the connecting wires for connecting the LEDs 16 to a current supply. A reflective body 22 is arranged in the interior. Its surface 23 has an upward slant and reduces the size of the diffusor member 13. Because of the reflective surface 23, the radiation of the light emitted by the LEDs 16 is reflected in the direction toward the illumination surface 14.

The article published by Elcos AG in the journal design & Elektronik (reference 4) provides an overview of the development within the field of seven segments displays and discloses an innovative design of a surface mounted display as shown in the illustrations on pages three and four. The photograph at the top of page four shows the results of the solder test (see bottom of page 3); the top row shows the SMD display elements after soldering and the bottom row shows conventional display elements that are severely damaged by the soldering process.

It is respectfully requested that the fee of \$180.00 required for submitting this Statement be charged to Deposit Account 50-1199.

Consideration of the foregoing in relation to this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted November 21, 2003,


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Enclosures: [x] PTO 1449

[x] reference(s)

[x] fee

- 2 -

11/21/03: IDS for Ser. No. 09/859,184 filed 6/20/2001 - Inventor(s): M. Menden

